

NEWSLETTER

CFIRE Sponsors REES Summit



Teresa Adams and the attendees at the 2008 REES Symposium

The American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the Association of American Railroads (AAR), organized the

symposium out of concern over the disappearance of railroad engineering from most engineering curricula in the U.S. and Canada. CFIRE was a sponsoring organization.

CFIRE director Teresa Adams participated in the symposium along with 33 professors from across the country and from as far away as Nigeria. The following seven topics were covered:

- Introduction to Railroad Engineering
- Introduction to Railway Infrastructure
- Railroad Power, Acceleration, and Traffic Control
- Railroad Intermodal Transportation
- Transit/Commuter/Intercity Rail Transportation
- Railroad capacity and
- Railroad Engineering Design Project

Other topics were covered during the two days of class instructions included a vision for the importance of providing Railroad Engineering Education in engineering classes, the current and future needs for capacity expansion, an overview of North American railroad engineering course offerings and research programs, and panel discussions on railroad engineering education and recruitment needs.

Course materials were distributed to encourage professors to add railroad topics to transportation classes or to develop new railroad engineering courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

After two days of instruction, participants toured the Norfolk Southern rail yard in Decatur, Illinois to provide a first-hand look at railroad operations.

The historic symposium made professors aware of the importance of railroad engineering to freight movement and the resources required for rail freight mobility. Railroad company representatives indicated that railroad education commands competitive salaries in today's market.

“The next step is for the participants to convince their colleagues to find room for material in already crowded engineering undergraduate curriculums,” Adams said. “The US freight rail system is the envy of the world. Think about what we could accomplish if we have a new generation of US engineers interested in this mode.”

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM COURSE OFFERINGS THROUGH:

DEPARTMENT OF *Engineering Professional Development*

The following transportation short-courses are being offered by the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Please refer to the EPD course web pages for more information: <http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu/> Click on “Courses” then “Civil and Environmental Engineering Courses”.

Title	Course Number	Date(s)	Location
Engineering Fundamentals of Rail Freight Terminals, Yards, and Intermodal Facilities: Current Practices in Design and Construction	J942	Sept. 15-16, 2008	Philadelphia, PA
Freight Railroads: Best Operating Practices <i>Scholarships Available from CFIRE</i>	K111	Oct. 21-22, 2008	Madison, WI
Fundamentals of Railway Train Control and Signaling Systems	J943	Sept. 17-18, 2008	Philadelphia, PA
Fundamentals of Seismic Design	K 024	Apr. 27-29, 2009	Madison, WI
Designing and Constructing Sanitary Sewer Systems	K064	Sept. 22-24, 2008	Madison, WI
Soil Engineering for Roads and Pavements	K011	Oct. 28-29, 2008	Las Vegas, NV
Improving Public Works Construction Inspection	K118	Dec. 8-9, 2008	Las Vegas, NV,
Managing Snow and Ice Control Operations	K119	Oct. 6-7, 2008	Madison, WI
Municipal Engineering Fundamentals for Non-Engineers	J950	Nov. 3-4, 2008	Las Vegas, NV

Adams and Bittner Tour BNSF Yard

CFIRE Director Teresa Adams and Deputy Director Jason Bittner were given a behind the scenes tour of BNSF's Argentine Yard following the MVC Annual Meeting in July. Special thanks to Drew White who provided the tour and Melodi Tripp who arranged the tour from BNSF. The Hump Yard is a site to see for classification on unit trains.

